

(10) Adoption of income tax.

(u) Election of administrative officials in towns and villages.²³

These demands, published openly by a newspaper, differed visibly in scope and intensity from the previously quoted secret instructions.

One may presume that this was intentional. While proclaiming

openly a liberal and relatively nonrevolutionary program in order

to win over progressive elements of the intelligentsia to its cause, the

party simultaneously conducted a revolutionary agitation among the

workers. The preliminary step in this direction was to organize the

workers into trade unions, and to this task the party gave particular

attention. While on duty in Iran as Consul General, Tardov, a

prominent member of the Soviet Orientalist Association, made a

study of the existing Iranian trade unions and presented an analytical

report to his government. This report as well as other sources served

as the basis for an exhaustive article on Iranian trade unions that ap-

peared in *Novy Vostok* in 1922 under the signature of V. Ossetrov.

According to this author, trade unionism, which had begun in Iran

during the 1906 revolution, was still in the early twenties pre-

dominantly in the form of artisans' guilds. In Isfahan at that time

forty artisans' guilds formed the Artisans' Union. Their program, ac-

cording to Ossetrov, was "permeated by petty bourgeois ideology of

the narrow guild group, seeing in the constitution and in the parlia-

ment the only device for the defense of their exclusive interests."²⁴

In Tabriz there were also forty guilds, and in Kermanshah twenty.

In Teheran the artisans belonging to a number of guilds were of a

slightly different type than those in the provincial cities. Here the

hired worker type predominated, in contrast to the generally independent artisan class in such a city as Isfahan. As time went on stratification became more and more visible among the artisans. This process, believed Ossetrov, would result in a split and a class struggle within the guilds themselves. Thus, he stated, "This form of organization turns out to be entirely antiquated and faces a period of disintegration."

It is this process of disintegration that the party desired to turn to its own advantage. In the years immediately following the revolu-

23 Ducrocq, *op. cit.*, pp. 142 ff.

24 "Le Mouvement syndical et ouvrier en Perse," *Novy Vostok*, II, 571.